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# CIA Official: 'Neutralize' S. Viet Nam

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Herald Tribune Wire

WASHINGTON—A ranking Central Intelligence Agency official believes there is "serious doubt" the Communist rebellion in South Viet Nam can be quelled and that a "prolonged stalemate" might be all the West can hope for.

This conclusion, reached in a scholarly paper called "Trends in the World Situation," promises to set off a political explosion because of Sen. Barry Goldwater's determination to make the Vietnamese war a major campaign issue. The Republican presidential candidate accuses the administration of being timid in dealing with Communists.

ALTHOUGH THE CIA was prepared to allow publication of the entire paper in a scholarly journal, the administration became concerned when it learned that one newspaper—the Chicago Tribune—had acquired a copy. The newspaper was understood to be planning a story on the document today.

The State Department attempted to reduce the impact of the story by making the paper available to a small group of reporters Friday night. At the same time, Secretary of State Dean Rusk reportedly said that the document did not represent the administration's viewpoint.

RUSK WAS SAID to have emphasized that the paper was the work of one man only—the author of it, Willard Matthias—and that it had no official status. Other sources said the paper was not an official appraisal by the CIA's Board of National Estimates, even though Matthias is a member of that important body and even though other board members saw the report and approved it in general terms.

The board consists of about 12 members and although it operates as part of CIA, it receives "input"—government opinion for a variety of contributions—from all intelligence units in the government. The board's duty is to appraise masses of intelligence reports and render its opinions as to

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what it all means. The board is sometimes described as a "think factory."

THE 45-PAGE PAPER, dated June 9, 1964, touched on virtually every aspect of the cold war. Its controversial section on South Viet Nam consisted of just these few lines:

"The Guerrilla war in South Viet Nam is in its fifth year and no end appears in sight. The Viet Cong in the south, dependent largely on their own resources but under direction and control of the Communist regime in the north, are pressing their offensive more vigorously than ever. The political mistakes of the Diem regime inhibited the effective prosecution of the war, which is really more of a political contest than a military operation, and led to the regime's destruction.

"The counter guerrilla effort continues to flounder, partly because of the inherent difficulty of the problem and partly because Diem's successors have not yet demonstrated the leadership and inspiration necessary.

"There remains serious doubt that victory can be won, and the situation remains very fragile. If large scale United States support continues, and if further political deterioration within South Viet Nam is prevented, at least a prolonged stalemate can be attained. There is also a chance that political evolution within the country and developments upon the world scene would lead to some kind of negotiated settlement based on neutralization."

WHILE SOME AMERICAN officials have made remarks to this effect privately in the last few months—and while some unofficial observers have stated similar conclusions in print—the fact that these views are being expressed by a senior CIA official casts them in a different light.

The paper will probably have international, as well as domestic, political repercussions.

Officially, Washington has dismissed any talk of "neutralization" of South Viet Nam as tantamount to a victory for the Communists because no one seriously believes that North Viet Nam could be detached from the Communist bloc. President De Gaulle of France has proposed neutralization—much to Washington's displeasure—after he, too, concluded that the chances of Western victory were very small.